



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NEW WILDLIFE RESEARCH LABORATORY FORMED BY CONSOLIDATING TWO UNITS

A new research laboratory which consolidates two units investigating wildlife food habits and methods for controlling predators and rodents has been established in Denver, Colorado, by the Fish and Wildlife Service Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today. The consolidation is expected to bring about economies in administration and better correlation of the closely allied economic and ecological projects of the formerly separate units.

E. R. Kalmbach, biologist of the Section of Food Habits, Division of Wildlife Research, who headed the food habits unit at Denver has been appointed director of the consolidated laboratory. F. E. Garlough, director of the control-methods unit, has been transferred to Washington, D. C., to become technical adviser to the chief of the Division of Predator and Rodent Control.

Besides Director Kalmbach, the new Wildlife Research Laboratory includes 12 scientists who will conduct investigations in the food habits and economic status of western wildlife and in preventive and control measures against destructive rodents and predatory animals.

The Denver Food Habits Laboratory was established in 1931 to study the food habits and economic relations of predatory and other mammals and birds in the West. Through identifications of items of food found in the stomachs of specimens, investigators have been able to determine the economic status of many wild animals.

The Service's investigations of methods for controlling coyotes, bobcats, jack rabbits, prairie dogs, and other predatory animals and rodents, began in 1887 when Dr. A. K. Fisher carried on experiments with various poisons to determine practical methods of destroying injurious species of mammals that were damaging property in certain areas. In 1905, S. E. Piper started field and laboratory experiments with bacterial viruses, poisons, traps, and other methods for the destruction of rodents. As both fields of work developed, it was found essential to bring these studies together in one unit. In June 1920, the Control Methods Research Laboratory was established with Mr. Piper in charge.

Since 1920, the predator and rodent control investigators have developed scientific methods of controlling injurious species of animals by means that are practical, efficient, economical, and at the same time selective so as to minimize danger to harmless or valuable species. Because of constantly varying soil, climatic, and ecological conditions, new and improved methods of control are constantly being perfected.

Kalmbach Authority on Crows, Sparrows

Recognized as a leader in the study of all forms of bird depredations, Mr. Kalmbach is particularly well-known for his extensive investigations

of botulism, or "duck sickness," and the habits and status of the crow, the starling, and the English sparrow. The Federal Government has issued 22 leaflets and bulletins he has written on botulism, blackbirds, crows, magpies, and other birds.

Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on April 29, 1884, Mr. Kalmbach was educated in the public schools there. He was appointed Assistant Director of the Kent Scientific Museum, of Grand Rapids, in June 1903 and held the post until June 1910. On July 1, 1910, he joined the Bureau of Biological Survey and immediately embarked on his career as a food habits specialist.

During his first 22 years as an employee of the Biological Survey, he was assigned to the Washington, D. C., laboratories, where he specialized in studies of injurious birds and methods for their control. When the food habits laboratory was opened in July 1931, he was sent to Denver to assume charge of that work.

Garlough Has Wide Background

Mr. Garlough, as technical assistant in the Division of Predator and Rodent Control, will devote much of his time to writing new and revising old publications on predatory animal and rodent control.

Born in Springfield, Ohio, on September 30, 1877, Mr. Garlough joined the Biological Survey in August 1915 as a member of the predatory animal and rodent control staff. He conducted extensive experiments in methods for the control of ground squirrels, pocket gophers, and jack rabbits in Oregon, California, and Nevada.

In 1928, he was appointed to head the control methods research project.. Under his direction, some 25 publications were issued on methods of controlling injurious animals.

When rats presented too difficult a problem for authorities in Hawaii to handle in 1936, the Service sent Mr. Garlough there. After several months of investigation, he suggested improved methods for solving the rat problem on the Islands.